

Message Text

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42

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 SCA-01 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PER-01 AS-01 /059 W

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P 191410Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1196

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SZ, CU

SUBJ: SWISS REPRESENTATION OF U.S. INTERESTS IN CUBA

1. SUMMARY. SWISS POLITICAL DEPT (FOREIGN MINISTRY) INFORMED EMBASSY AUG. 19 THAT CUBAN EMPLOYEE OF U.S. INTERESTS SECTION OF SWISS EMBASSY, HAVANA HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY CUBAN SECURITY POLICE AND CHARGED WITH TRANSMITTING INFORMATION TO USG. POLITICAL DEPT REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE PAYING CUBAN EMPLOYEE WHILE IMPRISONED.

2. MARIA MARGARITA RODRIGUEZ GONZALES, BORN 1919, HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY SWISS EMBASSY HAVANA SINCE 1961. AT SOMETIME AFTER SWITZERLAND ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR U.S. INTERESTS IN CUBA, MRS. GONZALES TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION. SHE IS A LAWYER AND WORKED ON LEGAL QUESTIONS IN THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION.

3. ON AUG. 12 AT 0900 MRS. GONZALES WAS SUMMONED TO CUBAN SECURITY POLICE (CSP). SHE WAS RETURNED HOME BY CSP AT 01:00 AUG. 13 BUT BROUGHT BACK TO CSP AT 0800 AUG. 13. SINCE THAT TIME SHE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY HER HUSBAND OR SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA.

4. MANUEL CID, MRS. GONZALES'S HUSBAND (BORN 1930) ALSO WORKS FOR U.S. INTERESTS SECTION OF SWISS EMBASSY. HE INFORMED SWISS EMBOFF AUG. 13 OF MATTER AND STATED CSP
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ACCUSED WIFE OF GIVING INFO RE CUBA TO U.S. HE COULD NOT

SPECIFY TYPE OF INFO. CID SAID WIFE WARNED NOT TO DISCUSS CASE WITH ANYONE. HE WAS TOLD BY CSP HE WOULD BRING CLOTHING TO WIFE BUT COULD NOT, RPT NOT, SEE HER ALTHOUGH HE WAS PROMISED THAT HE MIGHT VISIT HER AUG. 18. POLITICAL DEPT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN INFORMED IF VISIT TOOK PLACE.

5. AFTER PROVIDING ABOVE INFO POL DEPT REQUESTED DEPT'S DECISION WHETHER MRS. GONZALES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PAID (AT USG EXPENSE) DURING HER ABSENCE. SHE EARNS 390 CUBAN PESOS PER MONTH (ABOUT \$460). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT REPLY FOR TRANSMISSION TO POLITICAL DEPT.

6. FYI. POL DEPT OFFICER STATED DURING CONVERSATION RE MRS. GONZALES THAT POL DEPT RECEIVED CABLE FROM THE HAVANA EMBASSY ON AUG. 18 STATING THAT, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS, IT DID NOT APPEAR THAT US-CUBAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE RESUMED "FOR A LONG TIME". END FYI.
ODELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN03442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750286-0485
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750837/aaaabgcd.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS REPRESENTATION OF U.S. INTERESTS IN CUBA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SZ, CU, US, (RODRIGUEZ GONZALES, MARIA MARGARITA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006